A Literary Map of Barcelona Area 10: The Magical **Mountain 2** BARCELONA CUITURA Area 10: The Magical **Mountain 2** Literary Tour (Written as part of the Boombeta project by the Fàbrica de Creació Graner in the summer of 2017) Tour duration: 1h20 How to get there: Bus 13, 125 1 Bodega Peña 2 **Carrer Aviador Franco** 3 **Escalators** 4 Polvorí 5 Serrahima Stadium steps 6 The Bell of the Palau Sant Jordi Bodega Peña Carrer Aviador Franco, 15 Don't let the name of the street put you off. The "aviator" Franco was one of the first pilots to cross the Atlantic by seaplane from Huelva to Buenos Aires. The Bodega Peña situated on the corner of two streets: Aviador Franco and Aviador Duran, his flight companion. The neighbourhood is called Plus Ultra, which was the name of the plane used for their exploit. We would tell you to order a snack from Maria Peña, but the bodega closed down on June 23rd, 2017. Maria Peña was the last in a long line of winemakers who first opened the doors the bodega back in 1927, ninety years ago. Maria Peña is very sceptical about the survival of small local businesses. No one else from her family wants to take on the running of the bodega because they know what the future holds for establishments of this type. She goes on to say that support should have arrived forty years ago and that now, public authorities are throwing a lifeli-ne to someone who has already drowned. If anywhere can be considered the "heart of the neighbourhood," it would undoubtedly be the Bodega Peña. It wasn't only a very important social meeting point, but for years it served as the walk-in medical clinic as a result of the City Council's neglect of the neighbourhood. Maria Peña's brother was the instigator behind the project to preserve Can Mestres, a house with sixty urban gardens looked after by the local residents in the neighbourhood. Their family also prompted the creation of the first community grape stomping in Barcelona, which according to her, they organised to "cheer up" the locals at a time of demoralisation and low self-esteem around 1986. From the very start, La Joia de Montjuïc and their music group helped out selflessly with the organisation of the grape stomping providing music for everyone at the end. From then on, grape stomping became a tradition of the Plus Ultra, and is still going on today, helping to unite the local residents from all areas of La Marina del Port. 2. From Bodega Peña towards the escalators Head up Carrer Aviador Duran and straight on Carrer Mare de Déu del Port until you reach Paça Durruti. At Plaça Durruti, stop for a moment. Take a careful look at the ground you are treading on. Specifically, look at the tiles you're standing on. Read this text out loud. ľ AT THIS TILE How many have said hello, right here? How many cigarettes have been stubbed out? П How many have juggled here to entertain those strolling by on a Tuesday afternoon? How many times has it been covered by snow? Perhaps there was a desperate П plea here for someone's hand in marriage? An unexpected birth outside in broad daylight? How many have not said goodbye here, but should have? paused many have to tie a shoelace without rea-lizing that their grandfather used to play ball on this same tile when he was little? How many have surrendered Will we ever know the exact number? Can we ever know how many have sat in a circle laden with bottles of xibeca beer to discuss politics or music? Can we ever know what this place was like around here be-fore they put down these tiles? Does anyone know how many have danced on top of it? have come How many blows? How many have fallen to their knees and have begged, please, П please, let it work out this time? How many have had the thought "If only she remembe-red me"? How many have died here? How many have lost a loved one here? How many have belted their sorrows with the help of a guitar? How many have taken a pho-tograph of this tile, marvelling П at everything that must have happened, but that no one has ever noticed? We will never know the exact number, because there is no record of it. The only memory of it is the mark of this tile. you've finished When reading, do not move. Look at the tile on your right. Then look at the one on your left. Take a look at all the tiles around you. For each one, this text and its infinite variations would apply. La Txaranga begins to play a farewell song. Head for the escalators that take you to the Polvorí area. As you go up them, you can turn and bid farewell to the band, forever faithful to the Plaça Durruti. **Escalators** The escalators that lead you to Polvorí are long and we wouldn't want this to be time wasted. The district of La Marina was the birthplace of a writer who, instead of fleeing the district's hardships, he opted to turn them into the backdrop of That writer v his literary world. Francisco Candel (1925-2007). ľ "It turns out that in the Polvorí neighbourhood, whose apart-ments were built by the Muni-cipal Housing Trust, there are П some ten empty houses, and some of them have been that way for a long time. Some of these buildings have owners. An owner who bought another apartment elsewhere, which is where he went to live, and he still holds onto this one here. But there are other homes that are completely empty. At the same time, and in contrast, in П other homes you can find two to three families living toge-ther. More specifically, in one of them there are fourteen people. It is something that is quickly said, but... Among these fourteen people living in pro-П miscuity. There was also П a couple, still quite young, who shared their bed with their fifteen-year-old son. They had been living this way for some П time, until the husband of said couple couldn't stand the situa-tion any more. He showed up at a neighbourhood assembly where the Montjuic Plan Par-П cial was being discussed, and he shouted his desperation, and the neighbours, then—all together, just like in Fuenteove-juna [a play by Lope de Vega]— they approached one of these П empty apartments and with a solid kick, bam! they knocked open the door, and carrying the furniture that belonged to this desperate couple, they brought them to the empty apartment, telling the family: you now have a home." Francisco Candel, Donde la ciu-dad cambia su nombre Polvorí Once you reach the top of the escalators, walk towards Plaça Llorca and go up the wooden gravel steps on the other side of the square. Once you've arrived at the top, cross the gravel esplanade and you will arrive at the old Polvorí building, which also housed the former offices of Radio La Marina. Face away from the building. In expanse stretching from Montjüic to the Llobregat river. If you turned on the radio and tuned into Radio La Marina, you would hear the local news that would tell a story of three points that are visible from where you are standing Can Clos, at ten o'clock, the SEAT factory at twelve o'clock, and Montjuïc, at eight o'clock. It would be broadcast as follows: 1 **PILAR** And from the old Polvorí building, with spectacular views of the entire neighbourhood, we resume our broadcast at 105.2 with the radio program "La Marina al dia." Today, Oc-tober 18th, 1971, we must tell you about the events that are taking place right now at the SEAT factory. Since this morning, workers have occupied the factory to demand the reinstatement of the latest round of laid-off workers. Martina, can you tell us what is happe-П ning right now? **MARTINA** Yes, Pilar. The workers who have occupied the central offi-ces have asked to negotiate with the company, but the response has been to send in the Civil Guard and the mounted grisos police. Right now, the factory is surrounded; in fact, we could say that it is under siege. You can feel the latent tension in the air. Pilar. **PILAR** Thanks, Martina, we will get back to you soon at the SEAT factory; now they are asking us to connect to 1952. Ruben. RUBEN П Pilar, we are in the Estadi de Montjuïc on the afternoon of May 31st, 1952, and a his-torical event is about to take place: the greatest ordination of priests in the history of the Church; today there will no fewer than 800 new priests who will walk out the doors of the stadium. Before the mass, the National Socialist Workers П Youth, which will be camped next to the stadium for the du-ration of the congress, have delighted us with a parade at-tended by the entire Francoist leadership and presimilitary ded over by Cardinal Tedeschini himself. Pilar. **PILAR** Thank you, Ruben. Martina, any news from the SEAT factory? MARTINA Unchanged for now. The factory is still surrounded. The head of the civil guard and the head of the grisos have stepped away from the group to discuss something, but there is no move-ment. **PILAR** Thank you, Martina. Now we have to connect to Can Clos. Without leaving 1971, we will shift a few months ahead. Live from December 5th, Carmen, what can you tell us? **CARMEN** Pilar, here in the neighbour-hood of La Marina the rain is coming down so heavily we haven't seen anything like it in years. There is concern among the neighbours, because stran-ge noises have been heard in the landfill. **PILAR** The landfill, Carmen? **CARMEN** П Yes, indeed. The entire moun-tainside of Montjuïc that over-looks la Marina has become the unofficial dump of the city of Barcelona. Every day two thousand tons of rubbish are dumped without any sort of regulation. **PILAR** We were not aware of this situa-tion, Carmen. **CARMEN** Until now, its existence has caused pest issues, health pro-blems, infections, poisoning... but, with this downpour, the neighbours fear the worst. **PILAR** We have to leave you for a moment, Carmen; There seems to be news from the Eucharistic Congress. **RUBEN** It just happened. 800 priests ordained at once by Cardinal Tedeschini. Everyone in the stadium on their feet, including Francisco Franco himself, applauding this historic moment. We should remember that the immigrants who came from all over Spain for the Con-П gress construction project lived in barracks around Montjuïc and that, a few months after the start of it, they were removed from there because the mountain had to be "clean". Now they have been relocated to Verdum and Can Clos, and all of them have come en mas-П se to applaud the ordination of the priests. **PILAR** And now we go back to 1971, because it seems that thing has happened at SEAT as well as in Can Clos. Carmen? **CARMEN** П It is a tragedy, Pilar. The ground had begun to tremble, and the landfill suddenly collapsed; an avalanche of rubbish has just buried the houses located at the foot of Montjuïc, blocks of entire houses that have disappeared under the dirt, Pilar. I have never seen anything like **PILAR** One second, Carmen, because we have to go immediately to SEAT, it seems that the police have entered the factory. Mar-tina? **MARTINA** Yes, Pilar, right now they are firing rubber bullets and tear gas inside the factory. The po-lice have tried to break up the crowd, but the workers have refused and a pitched battle has begun. The horses of the П grisos are slipping on the pavement of the factory floor; it's total chaos. The police charges П are quite severe, some workers have entrenched themselves in the workshops and ... (Sounds of shots being fired) I do not know if you heard them, but there have been shots, gunshots, П the grisos are firing inside the factory, people are racing to and fro, the workers are striking back with tools from their workshops... The connection gets cut off, but there are still some more details you should know about events: Following the avalanche of rubbish, the affected residents were relocated to Ciutat Meridiana. The locals cut off the access to the trucks and dustcarts to stop them continuing to transfer rubbish to the dump. The Mayor, Porcioles, assured them that it would be closed in under a month. The rubbish dump was finally closed. In 1974, three years after the landslide. The 1952 Eucharistic **Congress** was the Franco regime's first event to be internationally accepted. A year later, in 1953, the concordat was signed between Spain and the Holy See, still in force today. The anthem of the Congress, called De rodillas, was one of the most popular songs of the Franco regime. The occupation that took place at the SEAT factory in 1971 was start of a permanent period of conflict between employees and the company. For years there were protests and demonstrations calling for improved working conditions. That night, on the 18th of October 1971, one of the workers was hit by eight bullets. Antonio Ruiz Villalba died on the 30th of October. He was a welder. 5. From Polvorí to the steps at the Serrahima Stadium Now walk over to the entrance to the Serrahima Stadium. Don't take the shortest route. Take a bit of a detour. Follow the path around the Polvolrí viewpoint in the direction of the sea. You will get to a gravel esplanade marked by four low wooden posts. This used to be a petanque court. In times of hardship when there was not enough money for the balls, they used to play with stones. There are a lot of stones in this area. Head towards the Serrahima Stadium. Before you get there, you will come to the Foixarda tunnel. On the way, you can read a little more from Candel: 1 . – – – – – – – . "These neighbourhoods were once green, with fields and more fields, all very poetic, and today they have been invaded by factories, chimneys and more chimneys, filling everything with black dust, detritus, rivers of acid that have supplanted the crystal-clear ones of before. They are rich and poor neighbourhoods, all at the same time, neighbour-hoods that offer a ludicrous contrast. The owners of the factories, the plump owners, are honest men, honest heads of their family who go from the factory to their home and from their home to the factory, and on Sundays to mass, just like any other worker." . _ _ _ _ _ _ . The Bell of the Palau Sant Jordi Go up the steps in front of the Serrahima Stadium, which lead to Avinguda Estadi. You are now right in the Olympic Ring. The route will continue to go uphill. To make it more enjoyable, I recommend you listen to <u>this</u> (**https://youtu.be**/ wypE8Ca19L4). Walk along Avinguda Estadi towards the Olympic Stadium. You are approaching the garden area surrounding the Campana de la Pau (Bell of Peace) near the Olympic Stadium. This bell was a gift from the region of Baden Wurten to the archbishop of Barcelona. The motto reads, "May the Olympic spirit float above humanity, and peace and freedom live on." It is interesting to note that Mercedes Benz and Lufthansa were among the companies that sponsored the crafting of the bell companies who benefitted from and were enriched by Nazism. But we have nothing against the Germans, and that is why the song you have just been listening to was Son nata a lagrimar by Händel. This is the end of the tour. You can go back into the city by crossing the Font del Gat and then going down via the Greek Theatre. Bear in mind that you will go past the Royal Palace —Palauet Albéniz where the royal family stays during their visits to Barcelona. You have travelled from the hidden face of Montjüic to the showcase of Montjuïc. A Literary Mapof Barcelona Ciutat de la Literatura UNESCO 6 bcnliteratura ② @bcnliteratura bcnliteratura barcelona.cat/ciutatdelaliteratura